

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8712
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3950

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LE
SUBJECT: MOUSSA, KANAAN ON SHARED PALESTINIAN-CHRISTIAN
INTERESTS

1. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, TRANS-MEDITERRANEAN
AIRWAYS OFFICER MOUSSA KANAAN OFFERED FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS
ON SYRIAN ACTIONS IN LEBANON. (KANAAN, RETIRED BRIGADIER
GENERAL IN L.A.F., WAS SENIOR GOL REP ON JOINT LEBANESE-
SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE THAT ARRANGED ORIGINAL ADF
DEPLOYMENT IN 1976.)

2. KANAAN: SYRIANS SEE THEMSELVES LOSING INTERNATIONAL
CREDIT AND FREEDOM OF MANEUVER IN CONTEXT M-E PEACE
PROCESS THROUGH THEIR EMBROILMENT IN LEBANON. SUPPRESSION
OF PHALANGE-NLP ACTIONS AGAINST SARKIS' AUTHORITY IS NECES-
SARY FIRST STEP IF SYRIANS ARE TO REGAIN CONTROL OF
SITUATION. NECESSARY SECOND STEP WILL BE SUPPRESSION OF
PALESTINIANS WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON REJECTIONISTS,
WHOM SYRIA WOULD LIKE TO "DRIVE OUT OF LEBANON COMPLETELY."
HAVING TAMED BOTH MARONITE AND PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS
ON LEBANESE FLANK, SYRIA COULD ADDRESS ITSELF,
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PERHAPS MORE POSITIVELY THAN HERTOFORE BECAUSE IT
WILL HAVE A FIRM GRIP ON ARAFAT, TO REGIONAL PEACE.

3. PALESTINIANS UNDERSTOOD WHAT THEIR FATE WILL BE SHOULD
SYRIANS PREVAIL OVER CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. IN CURRENT PHASE,
BOTH ARAFAT AND REJECTIONISTS WILL BE SEEKING FOREIGN
SUPPORT AS COUNTERWEIGHT TO SYRIA'S INFLUENCE OVER THEM.

U.S. EMBASSY SHOULD NOT BE DISMAYED, KANAAN SAID, IF IT
DISCOVERS PALESTINIANS RESUPPLYING CHRISTIAN MILITIAS WITH
ARMS INUPCOMING WEEKS. RESUPPLY MAY OR MAY NOT BE
LOGISTICALLY POSSIBLE, BUT TACTICAL AND POLITICAL
IMPULSE TO ATTEMPT IT EXISTS. IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES,
THESE OPPOSITES MUST COOPERATE AT SOME LEVEL.

4. DATT COMMENT: DANY CHAMOUN AND ABOU HASSAN OF FATAH
HAVE REPORTEDLY HAD SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS ON MUTUAL INTERESTS
RE LF-SYRIAN CONFRONTATION. KANAAN'S COMMENTS SEEM PLAUSIBLE.
PARKER

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